

SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
April 19, 2006

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, David Cooper, Trent Davis, Peggy DeBey, Rachel Loersch, Linda Moore, Cheri Parr, R. Abner Perney, Linda Smith and Paula Wright. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Carrie Carpenter, Brigid Hall, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: Carmen Wilson, League of Women Voters and April Middleton, Salina Journal. Absent: Randall Hardy, Luci Larson, Chelsey Mueller and Ted Zerger.

Moore called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Greater Salina Community Foundation Presentation

Greater Salina Community Foundation board member, Randy Graham, presented \$1,000.00 for the grant award to fund SHRF's First Families program. This program gives buttons to under privileged families so they can enjoy the Festival. SAHC is very fortunate to receive this money: Greater Salina Community Foundation received \$67,000 in grant requests, far more than they could fund.

Focus Time: SHRF Part 1

Prickett presented the Festival T-shirt. Graphic artist Kyle Gray designed the T-Shirt. Gray is a Salina Central High graduate and will graduate from KU in 2006. Prickett's approach this year for the T-shirt and Festival print was to commission younger artists just starting out making a living as professionals, representing a commitment to emerging artists and the future of the SHRF, while still meeting a high standard of quality. The T-shirt design is made up of 3's and 0's representing 30 years. T-Shirts will be \$12 for adults and \$10 youth go and on sale May 1. Colors this year for men's shirts: white, light gray and stonewash green; women's: pink and white. T-shirts also come in tank tops – white only, and youth sizes – light gray only.

The artist for the Festival print is Cameron Peterson, Fargo, ND. The print is a Linocut "Now and Neverland". The process is very involved and contemporary. Each print is signed and numbered by the artist. This print is produced in a limited edition of 250.

Gift certificates are available in \$20 increments good for purchases in the Fine Art Show, Four Rivers Craft Market and Demo area.

Pre-Festival Activities

The Salina Project

Over the course of three trips made in August, November, and December, photographer Les Slesnick visited 55 homes throughout Salina, exposing 3600 images on film. This resulted in a 35-piece exhibit that will rotate through the community over the next two years. On Tuesday, June 6th from 6-8:00 p.m. the exhibit will be displayed at the Stiefel's Watson room. At the public reception Mr. Slesnick will give a presentation

about the exhibit and his work, and will honor the people who participated. The exhibit will be moved to the Fine Art Show for Festival weekend. Prickett is working with Lori Brack to create story line language that accompanies the exhibit. Wright – will there any publications for this exhibit? Prickett – we will not have a publication but a card that includes the story line will be used for handouts. Florida Frame did an underwriting for materials. They will be listed as a sponsor for this project. Martha Rhea and Jim Allen are also sponsors for the project.

Art Car Project

Prickett has been working with Erika Nelson to have 20-30 cars for the Santa Fe Cruise and Art Car Exhibit on Thursday, June 8th at 3:00 p.m. Nelson, Lucas, KS, owns two art cars and has connections with other art car owners. Art Cars will be exhibited on Friday and Saturday of the Festival and cruise throughout Salina twice a day during the Festival.

Cardboard Art Cars were designed and created by artist, T.J. Tangpuz, Kansas City, in 2005. There will be a workshop for students 10 years and up, along with an adult to custom paint and decorate Tangpuz's cardboard cars. The cars will then be used as walking entries in the Santa Fe Cruise and Art Car Exhibit.

The Salina Art Center will present "The Fascinating World of Mr. Imagination". Mr. Imagination is a self-taught, "visionary" artist and legend of the Chicago art scene. This summer Mr. Imagination will be creating temporary folk artworks using recycled materials at the Art Center as part of their exhibit, "Tools as Art."

Prickett is working with the Museum staff to develop a collaborative project with Bruce Breslow. The workshop will teach adults and children how to play marble games. At the Festival there will be a marble ring for interaction. Breslow will also have his marble demonstration area at the Festival.

Pre-Festival Activities

Due to family matters, Darwin Nordin will not be participating in the art car residency. At this late in time it will be hard to replace him but the staff is working on it.

On Thursday, June 8th, Circus Minimus Puppetry will be presenting their Gnip Gnop Circus performance at the Salina Community Theatre from 12:20–12:50 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. Chris Griffith and Shari Aronson will present a workshop for participates 4th grade and up to create spontaneous scenes and sudden characters with the opportunity to perform a roving act at the Festival.

Entertainment Highlights

The Derailers - Friday

Average White Band – Saturday

Wendy Woo – closing on Sunday

In recognition of the 2,000+ volunteers we designate a breakfast to honor these wonderful people the Tuesday before the Festival - June 6th from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Every year Commissioners are asked to help with the race and Art Patron Breakfast. The Art Patron Breakfast will be Saturday, June 9th @ 7:00 a.m. in the Bicentennial Center. Sign up sheets will be distributed at the SAHC May meeting for Commissioners to volunteer to help with the Art Patron Breakfast, Volunteer breakfast and delivery of Festival prints to the BAP sponsorships. This year we are having an Art Car Exhibit and very excited about the parade being on Santa Fe since this is where the Festival began in 1976.

The individual fundraising piece this year displays a lot of familiar faces. About 35% of the Festival income comes from donations and sponsorships. A donation of at least \$100 qualifies you to receive a Festival print.

Minutes

Davis motioned to approve the March 15, 2006 minutes and Loersch seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

No discussion.

Museum Update

Grand Reopening next week Thursday – Saturday donor reception on Thursday and Friday dedication 11:00 a.m. – Art a la Carte Kelly and Molly Werts 25 cent Cozy's and free Pepsi 12:20 – 12:50 Friday night evening with former Governor and National Archives director John Carlin at Kansas Wesleyan University, with a reception to follow. Governor Carlin will speak on challenges to historians and regional and local history. He grew up on a farm near Smolan, and is very familiar with Salina and the region. Saturday street fair with several free activities and free food. The Friends of the Smoky Hill Museum wanted to celebrate the hard work that was put into the gallery renovation – and they want Salinans to see all of this. That's why this is a free event.

Twelve applicants for Museum Director – wonderful interview team including Loersch. Time table is not complete but by mid-May we should have someone selected for the position.

Gallery is about 97% finished – wonderful replica of the Union Pacific "Salina Your Opportunity" sign. City Commission study session was held in the Museum on Monday.

Horizons

The following Horizons Grant final reports were received and reviewed.

- Developing artist, Priti Cox – grant # 04-01-121 "Children's Book Project"
- Developing artist, Kristin Van Tassel – grant # 04-01-125 "Collaborative Children's Book Project"
- Developing artist, Kenneth Klostermeyer – grant # 04-01-123 "Kiln Request"
- Sudden Opportunity Salina Public Library – grant #06-02-03 "Gypsum Hill Cemetery Historical Walk"

Benson reported on the final reports. Priti and Kristin's book was exhibited in the public library for a short period. They are shopping around for publishers but it's more difficult because usually the story is written and then publishers look for an illustrator; with this project the entire book is completed. Ken Klostermeyer had to relocate his kiln to a different home because he needed more electricity to run the kiln. Benson attended the Cemetery Historical Walk. The Library (Judy Lilly) did a really good job putting the publication together. The project turned out to be a "charming" humanities project for SAHC.

Salina Community Theatre submitted a sudden opportunity grant 06-04-02 "Lighting the Future." Benson read the project summary. Highkin – sudden opportunity grants allow organizations or artists to receive \$500 for an opportunity which may arise unexpectedly between grant sessions. Benson clarified that cash may come from any source. Smith – truly meets criteria for a sudden opportunity grant. Smith made a motion to approve the grant and Loersch seconded. Motion passed.

Board Nominating Committee

This year's nominating committee will be Cooper, Benyshek, and DeBey, working with Highkin as staff member. The board grid was distributed and completed by the Commissioners.

Other Business

The City of Salina *Budget in Brief* was distributed to the Commissioners. Highkin - comes from the City office and gives an overview of the City as an organization. On page 7, Arts & Humanities is listed under "recreation," under cultural; on page 9 expenses are listed under "recreation and cultural", in the amount \$422,325. Most is for staffing and 3 or 4 line items to pay for our equipment, van maintenance and gas. The Smoky Hill Museum is \$440,965, a lot of programming (plus salaries). Benyshek - what was the percentage increase over last year? Highkin will double check typically 2 ½ % for cost of living. Benyshek - do we give input on how much money we receive? Highkin - change in City Manager this year, so we're looking more into the budget process than previously. There's much looping of funds between the City, SAHC and the City—in the ideal world, this won't happen any longer.

Long-term planning – need 3-5 volunteers to meet with Diane Mataraza on Thursday, April 27th (noon time through 4:00 p.m.). Ms. Mataraza has worked with SAHC and ACAAK in the past. Seeking consensus between staff and commissioners in terms of defining the range of what we want to do, and how we want to define a strategic plan. Hope to determine timeline and process by which we choose who we want to facilitate the plan itself. Will constitute a permanent committee to work through this process (want Commissioners for the discussion next week. (Benyshek thinks she can attend.) Last major cultural plan was approved in 1992.

Preliminary meeting today looking at Eric Stein Stage plaque and/or sign. The Commission's role is to help the Stage committee members determine what they are going to do. The scale, specific project, budgeting and fundraising is up to them. City

staff (SAHC and Parks & Rec) will work with the Committee on brainstorming ideas. The group who brought the proposal forward is making the decisions and we are here for guidance. Prickett – concerns of how the Festival uses the stage, issues of placement. It would be beneficial to have strong input into that. Wright – Commissioners to set perimeters for this function? Highkin – yes.

Benyshek acknowledged that this is Commissioner Perney's last meeting and noted appreciation of his dedicated attendance. Perney - City Commission has a strategic planning process that is taking place next week. Study session for a day and a half; revise the comprehensive utility service area plans, cultural plan update will filter up to the Commission. Comprehensive plan will be joint with the County; part of the discussion is planning for the future. Some of the discussion was regarding the Oakdale Park – in current agreements the park does not belong to the City but to the County, and Kenwood Park which belongs to the City, but used by the County. This arrangement expired in the early 1970's.

Prickett briefly discussed the process and progress of the public art installation at the Municipal Water Plant.

Benyshek moved to adjourn the meeting and Davis seconded. Motion passed.

/kab